

## Copley News Wire Accused of CIA Tie

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Penthouse magazine charged Friday that 23 employees of Copley News Service had worked simultaneously for the CIA and that the news service "for years was operated in significant part as an arm of the Central Intelligence Agency."

The charges were made in an article in the August issue of the magazine written by Joe Trento, 29, an unsuccessful candidate last year in a primary race for Congress as a California Democrat, and Dave Roman, a former San Diego newsmen.

They quoted Gene Gregston, a former editor of the San Diego Union—The Copley flagship newspaper—as telling them that the Copley News Service "was never run to make money; it was an ego thing for Jim Copley, and the CIA wanted it."

(In San Diego, Gregston denied ever having made the statement attributed to him. "Somebody made up that quote," Gregston said. "I don't know Joe Trento. I never talked to him.")

(Gregston said he did talk to Roman and "told him I knew nothing about any connection between the Copley News Service and the CIA . . . I had nothing to do with the Copley News Service, so I had no occasion to know.")

A CIA spokesman said he had not seen the full Penthouse article "and any sort of a response at this time would be superfluous."

Richard G. Capen Jr., Copley Press' senior vice president of operations, denied the allegations.

" . . . We have been assured by the highest levels within the CIA that no employees of Copley newspapers or CNS have been employees of the agency," he said. "Furthermore, the claims that the authors have made are old allegations that Copley newspapers have repeatedly denied over the past two years."

Penthouse said that its charges were denied by Victor Krulak, a former Marine Corps lieutenant general and retired president of the Copley News Service in June. But the magazine said Krulak "qualified his denial, though, by stating that he could not speak for individuals or stringers who worked for CNS."

"After a year-long investigation," a Penthouse news release said, "the magazine learned that 23 employees of the Copley News Service had worked for the CIA simultaneously; that the CNS published articles on its wire services to enlist public support for CIA activities; that CNS provided information to the CIA about Latin American activities; and that the late James S. Copley, publisher and sole owner of the Copley Press, acted on behalf of the CIA in a number of serious efforts to influence foreign governments."